

Jackson takes the Marathon challenge to the links

by John Bkila
Oakville Beaver Staff

Fifteen years ago, the Oakville Community Foundation (OCF) put a new spin on the standard fundraising marathon — invite people to play 100 holes of golf all for a good cause.

"When you talk about a marathon, people's eyes tend to widen and they say, 'Oh, I could never do anything like that,'" said Terry Jackson, co-chair of OCF's annual Marathon of Golf for the last six years. "But not everyone has to play the 100 holes... We have some people that play two rounds, some play half, and we've had people come out and

just play nine holes. It really is your own personal marathon and that allows us to tap into as many people that want to come out and participate."

This year's Marathon of Golf is set for Tuesday, May 14 at the Glen Abbey Golf Club — the scene for the 2013 Canadian Open.

"It's a fun event and a great way to tune up your game... and you'll get a chance to play the course the pros are playing," Jackson said.

The unique marathon event is the sole fundraiser for the year for OCF, which helps connect generous individuals and philanthropists looking to donate with the local organizations and groups that need it.

"It's essential (for the OCF)... and it goes a long way to really support the causes and infrastructure for those causes that we think are important within Oakville," said Jackson. "We (OCF) also create endowments for people. We don't have any biases to any type of charity... we run the broad spectrum of helping out large and small organizations."

"The Marathon of Golf helps creates even more awareness of what we do at the Oakville Community Foundation, and it's also been a feeder system for us for volunteers, donors and board members."

Since its inception, and particularly over the last few years, the Marathon of Golf raises \$150,000-\$180,000 every year, says Jackson.

With sponsors to cover the cost of the facility and the dinner, all the money raised supports OCF, he explained.

Proceeds also go towards OCF's Vital Signs report on the needs of the community and its Random Acts of Kindness initiative, among others.

Each golfer is expected to raise \$2,000, while some of the veteran participants tend to raise significantly more.

Golfers begin at approximately 6:30 a.m., play in threesomes and every player has their own cart.

"You don't take the flag out, you don't look for balls and basically you golf," Jackson said. "It



Terry Jackson

takes two hours per round and we play five rounds; so that's 90 holes. To make up the other 10, on two of the par threes, you hit two balls each time you go by."

A speaker from an organization supported by the OCF is also invited to speak to the participants at the dinner — this year, organizers are expecting 30-35 golfers.

Those who don't want to golf can still help out, explains Jackson, by volunteering for part of the day, sponsoring a hole for \$500, or a golfer by visiting www.theocf.org and clicking the Marathon of Golf tab at the bottom of the page.

Jackson, who is a past-chair of the OCF and current chair of the Community Foundations of Canada, is an avid golfer himself (getting out on the course approximately 50-60 times a year) and has participated in the Marathon of Golf the last 10 years.

"I'm pretty lucky to be able to go down to the south (the U.S.) for part of the winter, back and forth, and play in Palm Springs a little bit and I play here (in Oakville). But it's definitely not one of those things where the more you play, the better you get," he said, jokingly. "But I really enjoy playing... and the Marathon of Golf is just another chance to play and all for a great cause."

NEW!
Open Wed/Thurs Extended Hours until 8pm.
More Than Just a Place to Cook,
It's where Family Happens.



emeraldkitchens.ca

Treat your mother this
MOTHER'S DAY
TO THE BEST SUNDAY BRUNCH IN THE REGION!

SUNDAY,
MAY 12,
2013!

Join us every Sunday for live music inside Ivy's gorgeous naturally lit dining room. Spend all Spring and Summer on Burlington's Best Patio: Ivy's one-of-a-kind **Garden Patio Oasis** featuring lush landscaping, an open air dining area, lounge and social booths.

Happy
Mother's
Day

LUNCH * BRUNCH * DINNER * COCKTAILS

3330 SOUTH SERVICE ROAD, BURLINGTON, ON L7N 3M6

905.333.ivy1 (4891)

reservations@ivybar.ca | www.ivybar.ca



dgc

An independently owned DGC ENTERTAINMENT Property

LOCAL 793
international union of
operating engineers

United Way Oakville
25th Annual
Mayor's Invitational Golf Tournament

Presented By:
COGECO
How can we help you?

Wednesday, June 26, 2013
Glen Abbey Golf Course

Foursomes: \$2,000

Sponsorships start at \$500

Visit www.uwoakville.org to register today!